

Dear Michael Powell, et. al:

The local radio and TV stations here in Indiana are really not serving local interests at all. Recently I drove across the country and listened to the radio the entire way. I was amazed and flabbergasted at the absence of local "color" in what is now a very flat radio landscape, dominated by centralized broadcasters owned by a few. From station identification to the type of music or talk shows played, its becoming increasingly clear that the "local" in our local broadcasting stations are quickly going by the wayside.

In another recent example, Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. Thank you.